

# Criminal Justice Statistical Analysis Center

June 2005

## WV Juvenile Corrections Report: 2001-2003

Cynthia A. Hamilton, M.S., Research Analyst

Stephen M. Haas, Ph.D. Director

Upon adjudication, the court can commit a juvenile to the custody of the director of the Division of Juvenile Services (DJS) for placement in a juvenile correctional facility. WV's two facilities are WV Industrial Home for Youth (WVIHY) and the Davis Juvenile Correction Center (Davis Center).

In 2003, less than one percent (0.1%) of all juveniles between the ages 10 and 17 were committed to WV juvenile correctional facilities. There were 213 juveniles committed to DJS in 2003.

The average age of juvenile commitments in 2003 was 16.3 years of age. These juveniles ranged from 12 to 20 years of age. Female commitments tended to be younger than their male counterparts. The average age of female commitments was 15.9 while the average age of male commitments was 16.4.

Males were overrepresented in the proportion of committed juveniles compared to their proportion of the WV population of youth ages 10 to 17. Males comprised 51.5% of the juvenile population but represented 88.7% of the population of juvenile commitments in 2003. Nonwhite youths were also overrepresented in the proportion of juveniles committed to DJS compared to their proportion of the WV population of youth ages 10 to 17. While nonwhite youths comprised

only 5.8% of the population, the proportion of nonwhite youth committed to DJS was 16.9%.

There were 485 offenses charged to the population of juveniles committed to DJS in 2003. Nearly three-quarters (71.6%) of youth committed to DJS in 2003 were charged with more than one offense. Probation violations comprised nearly one-fifth (19.8%) of all the charges. The second most common offense charged in 2003 was assault and battery (16.5%) followed by burglary (11.1%) and theft (11.1%).

Cabell County had the largest number of commitments with 34, followed by Kanawha County (20) and Mercer County (13). However, Cabell and Hardy counties had the highest commitment rates with 3.89 and 3.75, respectively. The overall commitment rate for the state in 2003 was 1.1 or 1 per 1,000 youth ages 10 to 17 in WV.

There were 309 juveniles released from juvenile correctional facilities in 2003. The average sentence served by these juveniles was nine months. Over one-half (51.5%) of the releases were juveniles committed prior to 2003 while slightly less than one-half (48.5%) were committed in 2003.

This report presents statistics on juveniles committed and released from WV juvenile correctional facilities from 2001 to 2003. The statistics in this report are based on monthly and daily

State of West Virginia  
Department of Military Affairs & Public Safety  
Division of Criminal Justice Services

### Report Highlights

*A total of 213 juveniles were committed to DJS in 2003.*

*In 2003, WV's commitment rate was 1.12 juveniles per 1,000 juveniles age 10 to 17.*

*Nonwhite juveniles accounted for 16.9% of the population committed to WVIHY in 2003.*

*Property offenses were the most common type of offense category charged to juveniles committed to WVIHY from 2001 to 2003.*

*In 2003, Cabell and Kanawha counties had the largest and second largest number of juvenile commitments to WVIHY.*

*The average daily population for the state was 208.0 in 2003 or 83.5% of the total capacity.*

*An estimated 309 juveniles were released from juvenile correctional facilities in 2003.*

*The median length of stay for juveniles committed in 2003 was 271 days or 9.0 months.*

Division of  
**CRIMINAL  
JUSTICE  
SERVICES**

population reports generated by WVIHY and Davis staff and compiled by the Division of Juvenile Services (DJS).

## COMMITMENTS

In 2003, WV had its highest number of juvenile commitments in 10 years (Graph 1). There were 213 juveniles committed to WVIHY in 2003—an increase of 15.1% from 2002. There were, however, a total of 222 commitments to WVIHY in 2003. Nine juveniles were committed in 2003, released, and recommitted upon commission of a new offense(s) or for violating their provisions of release. There were 185 juveniles committed in 2002 and 194 juveniles committed in 2001.

Just over one-third or 35.7% of the juveniles committed to WVIHY were subsequently transferred to Davis Center in 2003. Nearly one-half or 49.5% of juvenile commitments were transferred to Davis Center in 2002 and 38.7% of juvenile commitments were transferred to Davis Center in 2001.

WVIHY's diagnostic unit admitted 223 juveniles in 2001, 300 juveniles in 2002 and 249 juveniles in 2003 for evaluation. The remainder of this report does not include juveniles admitted to the diagnostic unit.

### Age

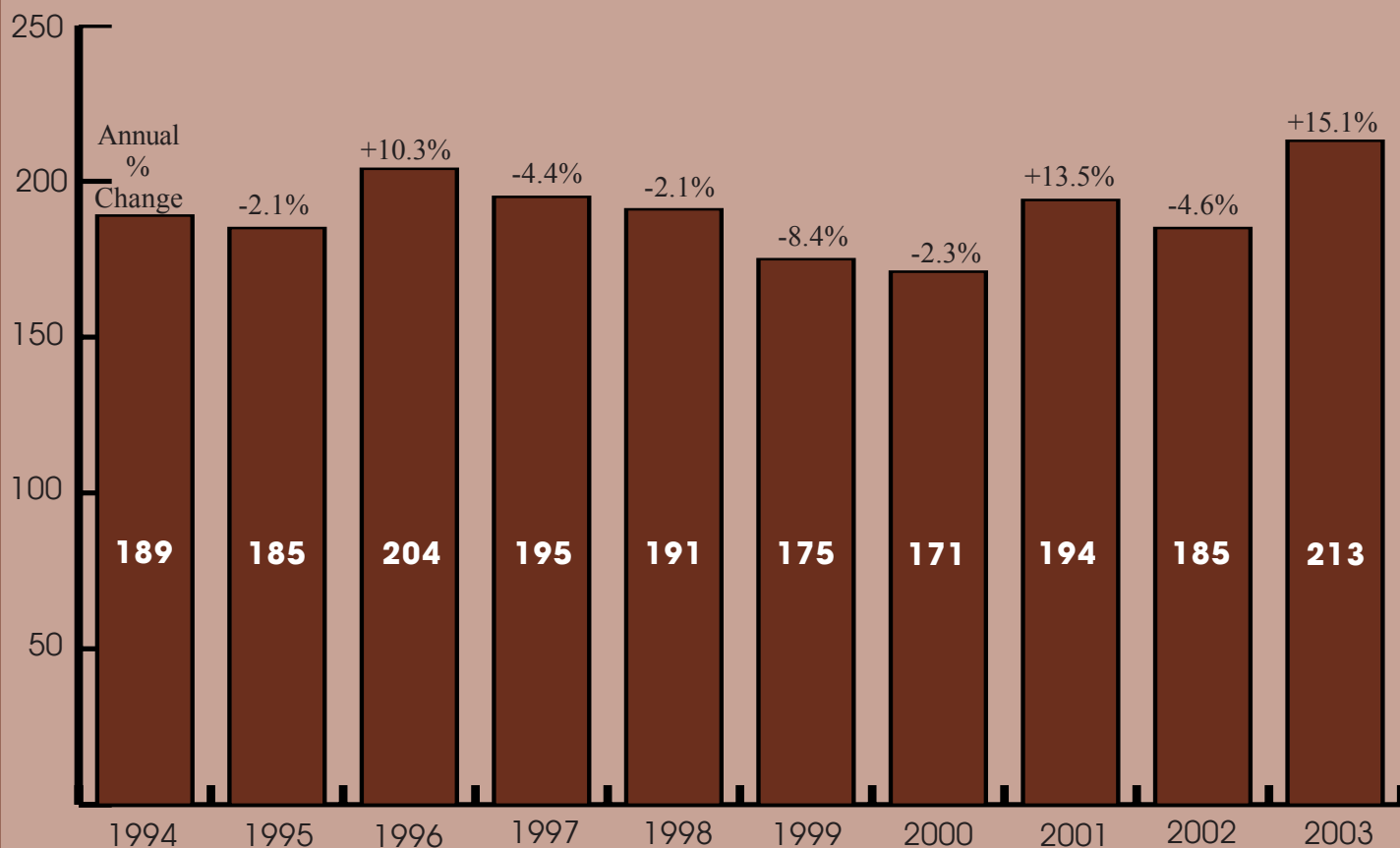
Juveniles committed to WVIHY in 2001 and 2002 ranged in age from 12 to 19 years of age. Juveniles committed to WVIHY in 2003 ranged

in age from 12 to 20 years of age (Table 1). The average age of juveniles committed to WVIHY in 2001, 2002, and 2003 was 16.3. Youths 17 years of age were the most frequently committed age group. Juveniles 12 years of age comprised less than one percent of the committed population in 2003. Juveniles age 18 and older comprised 14.5% of the juveniles committed in 2003. These juveniles had either committed their offense(s) prior to reaching 18 years of age or had violated probation for offense(s) they committed before the age of 18.

### Gender

Males were overrepresented among the juveniles committed to

Graph 1. Juveniles Committed to WV Juvenile Correction Facilities, 1994 - 2003<sup>1</sup>



<sup>1</sup>This graph represents the total number of new individual juvenile commitments to WV juvenile correctional facilities. The numbers do not reflect juveniles who were subsequently returned to WVIHY from Davis or a regional jail within the same year.

WVIHY in 2003 compared to their proportion of the juvenile population ages 10 to 17. While males comprise 51.5% of the juvenile population ages 10 to 17 in WV they represented 88.7% of juvenile commitments (Table 1). Conversely, females were underrepresented among the juveniles committed to WVIHY in 2003 when compared to their proportion of the juvenile population. While females comprise 48.5% of the juvenile population in WV they

represented 11.3% of juvenile commitments. Females in WVIHY tended to be younger than their male counterparts. An estimated 33.4% of females were younger than 15 years of age, compared with 22.2% of males. The average age of juvenile commitments is also younger for females (mean = 15.9) compared to males (mean = 16.4).

### Race

Nonwhite juveniles were also overrepresented in West Virginia's

juvenile correctional facility population in 2003 compared to their proportion of the WV population of youth ages 10 to 17. While nonwhite juveniles represented 5.8% of the WV population of youth ages 10 to 17 in 2000, they accounted for 16.9% of the population committed to WVIHY in 2003 (Table 1).

### Education

As indicated in Table 1, slightly above thirty percent (30.9%) of youth committed to WVIHY in 2003 had

Table 1. Demographic Characteristics of Juveniles Committed to WV Juvenile Correctional Facilities, 2001-2003

Demographic Characteristics	2001 Commitments		2002 Commitments		2003 Commitments	
	N	% <sup>1</sup>	N	%	N	%
<b>Gender</b>						
Male	171	88.1	161	87.0	189	88.7
Female	23	11.9	24	13.0	24	11.3
<b>Total</b>	<b>194</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>185</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>213</b>	<b>100.0</b>
<b>Race</b>						
White	152	78.4	153	82.7	177	83.1
Black	32	16.5	27	14.6	31	14.5
Asian	0	----	0	----	0	----
Hispanic	2	1.0	0	----	0	----
Biracial	7	3.6	5	2.7	5	2.4
Unknown	1	.5	0	----	0	----
<b>Total</b>	<b>194</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>185</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>213</b>	<b>100.0</b>
<b>Age</b>						
Mean	16.3		16.3		16.3	
Standard Deviation	1.3		1.3		1.4	
Minimum	12		12		12	
Maximum	19		19		20	
<b>Total</b>	<b>194</b>		<b>185</b>		<b>213</b>	
<b>Last Grade Completed</b>						
Grade 8 (or lower)	26	16.4	51	31.7	41	21.5
9th Grade	41	26.0	32	19.9	59	30.9
10th Grade	48	30.4	46	28.6	57	29.8
11th Grade	30	19.0	26	16.2	26	13.6
12th Grade	13	8.2	6	3.6	8	4.2
<b>Total</b>	<b>158</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>161</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>191</b>	<b>100.0</b>
<b>GED</b>						
Yes	26	17.8	16	10.0	16	8.3
No	120	82.2	143	90.0	177	91.7
<b>Total</b>	<b>146</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>159</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>193</b>	<b>100.0</b>

<sup>1</sup>Percentages may not equal 100.0% due to rounding.

completed 9<sup>th</sup> grade at the time of their commitment. The second most frequent grade completed was 10<sup>th</sup> grade (29.8%). Nearly twenty-two percent (21.5%) of youth reported having completed at least 8<sup>th</sup> grade. Among youth committed in 2003, only 8.3% reported having received their GED.

## Offenses

Overall, 483 offenses were charged to the youths committed in

2001, 472 in 2002, and 485 in 2003. These offenses included property, person, public order, drug, status, miscellaneous, and probation violations. Table 2 shows a complete distribution of offense counts.

*Property offenses* were the most common type of offense category charged to juveniles committed to WVIHY in 2001 (32.9%), 2002 (28.0%), and 2003 (34.0%). Burglary and theft comprised the majority of property offense counts

for 2001, 2002, and 2003 property offenses.

*Person offenses* were the second most common type of offense category charged in 2003 with 23.7%. Assault/battery made up the majority of person offenses for all three years. Over the three year period, the largest number of homicides was reported in 2002 (10). Sexual abuse/assault offenses increased in 2003 from 2001 and 2002. Robbery, kidnapping, and

Table 2. Offense Counts by Offense Category for Juvenile Commitments, 2001-2003

Offense Category	2001 Offense Counts		2002 Offense Counts		2003 Offense Counts	
	Counts	% of Total	Counts	% of Total	Counts	% of Total
<b>Property Offenses</b>	<b>159</b>	<b>32.9</b>	<b>132</b>	<b>28.0</b>	<b>165</b>	<b>34.0</b>
Burglary	43	8.9	47	9.2	54	11.1
Theft	67	13.9	40	8.5	54	11.1
Property Damage	27	5.6	26	5.5	26	5.4
Stolen Vehicle	14	2.9	2	0.5	16	3.3
Stolen Property	7	1.5	14	3.0	10	2.1
Arson	1	0.2	3	0.6	5	1.0
<b>Person Offenses</b>	<b>92</b>	<b>19.0</b>	<b>104</b>	<b>22.0</b>	<b>115</b>	<b>23.7</b>
Assault/Battery	65	13.5	73	15.5	80	16.5
Robbery	5	1.0	0	0	10	2.1
Sexual Abuse/Assault	18	3.7	17	3.6	21	4.3
Homicide	4	0.8	10	2.1	3	0.6
Kidnapping	0	0	3	0.6	0	0
Child Abuse/Neglect	0	0	1	0.2	1	0.2
<b>Public Order Offenses</b>	<b>102</b>	<b>21.1</b>	<b>87</b>	<b>18.4</b>	<b>72</b>	<b>14.9</b>
Obstruction of Justice <sup>1</sup>	60	12.4	50	10.6	41	8.5
Weapons Offenses	19	3.9	24	5.1	14	2.9
Fraudulent Activities	11	2.3	4	0.8	3	0.6
Traffic Offenses	8	1.7	6	1.3	10	2.1
Disorderly Conduct <sup>2</sup>	4	0.8	2	0.5	4	0.8
Animal Offense	0	0	1	0.2	0	0
<b>Drug Law Violations</b>	<b>24</b>	<b>5.0</b>	<b>34</b>	<b>7.2</b>	<b>24</b>	<b>5.0</b>
<b>Status Offenses <sup>3</sup></b>	<b>11</b>	<b>2.3</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>0.6</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>1.0</b>
<b>Miscellaneous Offenses <sup>4</sup></b>	<b>11</b>	<b>2.3</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>1.1</b>	<b>8</b>	<b>1.6</b>
<b>Probation Violation</b>	<b>84</b>	<b>17.4</b>	<b>107</b>	<b>22.7</b>	<b>96</b>	<b>19.8</b>
<b>Total</b>	<b>483</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>472</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>485</b>	<b>100.0</b>

<sup>1</sup> **Obstruction of justice offenses** included counts of obstructing an officer, running from placement, fleeing, and escape.

<sup>2</sup> **Disorderly conduct offenses** included counts of public intoxication and disturbing the peace.

<sup>3</sup> **Status offenses** include counts of truancy, runaway, and underage possession/consumption of alcohol. Status offense counts were charged in conjunction with delinquency offenses.

<sup>4</sup> **Miscellaneous offenses** include counts of conspiracy to commit a felony, prostitution and other sex offenses not involving assault or abuse, offenses designated as "other," privacy violations, trespassing and treason.

child abuse/neglect comprised a very small percentage of the person offenses charged in 2001, 2002, and 2003.

*Public order offenses* were the second most frequent category of offenses in 2001. The most frequent public order offense charged was obstruction of justice. Weapons offenses were highest in 2002 with 24 counts. The remaining offenses, (fraudulent activities, traffic offenses, disorderly conduct, and animal offenses) made up a very small proportion of public order offenses reported.

*Drug law violations* comprised 5.0% of offenses in 2001, 7.2% in 2002, and 5.0% in 2003. Drug law charges included counts of manufacturing, possessing and delivering controlled substances.

*Status offenses* accounted for a very small percentage of offenses in 2001 (2.3%), 2002 (0.6%), and 2003 (1.0%). The status offenses charged to juveniles committed in 2001, 2002 and 2003 included counts of truancy, runaway, and underage possession/consumption of alcohol. Status offenses were charged *only* in combination with

other more serious and detainable charges.

*Miscellaneous offenses* also accounted for a very small proportion of the offenses charged in 2001 (2.3%), 2002 (1.1%), and 2003 (1.6%).

*Probation violations* were the second most frequent category of offenses in 2002 accounting for 22.7%. They represented 17.4% and 19.8% of the offenses charged in 2001 and 2003 respectively.

Table 3. Juvenile Commitment Rates by County, 2003

Population <sup>1</sup>			Rate per 1,000 <sup>3</sup>			Population			Rate per 1,000		
Number of Commitments <sup>2</sup>			Number of Commitments			Number of Commitments			Rate per 1,000		
Barbour	1,748	0	0.00	Mineral	3,041	8	2.63				
Berkeley	8,986	5	0.56	Mingo	3,317	5	1.51				
Boone	2,708	2	0.74	Monongalia	6,716	3	0.45				
Braxton	1,654	2	1.21	Monroe	1,410	1	0.71				
Brooke	2,456	2	0.81	Morgan	1,481	1	0.66				
Cabell	8,737	34	3.89	Nicholas	3,095	6	1.90				
Calhoun	901	2	2.22	Ohio	4,878	6	1.23				
Clay	1,290	1	0.78	Pendleton	846	0	0.00				
Doddridge	948	1	1.10	Pleasants	831	1	1.20				
Fayette	4,835	6	1.24	Pocahontas	926	1	1.08				
Gilmer	753	0	0.00	Preston	3,495	1	0.29				
Grant	1,145	2	1.75	Putnam	5,935	1	0.17				
Greenbrier	3,501	6	1.71	Raleigh	8,032	4	0.50				
Hampshire	2,443	0	0.00	Randolph	3,029	3	0.99				
Hancock	3,171	4	1.26	Ritchie	1,149	0	0.00				
Hardy	1,332	5	3.75	Roane	1,811	3	1.70				
Harrison	7,501	6	0.80	Summers	1,308	1	0.77				
Jackson	3,216	4	1.24	Taylor	1,820	1	0.55				
Jefferson	4,676	6	1.28	Tucker	757	1	1.32				
Kanawha	19,444	20	1.03	Tyler	1,121	1	0.89				
Lewis	1,735	2	1.15	Upshur	2,537	0	0.00				
Lincoln	2,459	5	2.03	Wayne	4,738	7	1.48				
Logan	3,895	7	1.80	Webster	1,097	1	0.91				
Marion	5,542	8	1.44	Wetzel	2,051	2	0.98				
Marshall	3,891	1	0.26	Wirt	746	0	0.00				
Mason	2,725	3	1.10	Wood	9,542	3	0.31				
McDowell	3,236	5	1.55	Wyoming	2,813	0	0.00				
Mercer	5,988	13	2.17	<b>Total WV</b>	<b>189,438</b>	<b>213</b>	<b>1.12</b>				

<sup>1</sup>Data Source: Census 2000, US Census Bureau

<sup>2</sup>The "Number of Commitments" represents the number of unique individual juveniles admitted to the WVIHY.

<sup>3</sup>Rates based on 10-17 year old population.



## Home County

In 2003, Cabell County had the largest number (34) of juveniles committed to WVIHY (Table 3). Kanawha had the next largest number with 20. Mercer County was third with 13 juveniles committed. Thirty-four counties had five or fewer juveniles committed in 2003. Eight counties had no juveniles committed in 2003.

## Commitment Rates

In 2003, WV's commitment rate was 1.12 juveniles per 1,000 juveniles age 10 to 17. Cabell and Hardy counties had the highest commitment rates at 3.89 and 3.75 per 1,000 juveniles in the population of youth ages 10 to 17. Mineral County had the next highest incarceration rate at 2.63 or approximately 3 commitments per 1,000 juveniles in the population of youth ages 10 to 17.

Four counties (Calhoun, Lincoln, Mercer and Mineral) had commitment rates approximating 2 commitments per 1,000 juveniles. Twenty-two counties had commitment rates between 1 and 2 and nineteen counties had commitment rates less than 1 juvenile per 1,000 in the population of youth ages 10 to 17. As shown in Table 3, eight counties had no commitments in 2003 and thus their commitment rate was 0.

## Daily Population

The total correctional capacity for committed juveniles in 2003 was 309. The WVIHY has 249 beds and Davis Center has 60 beds. The total number of committed juveniles on any one day ranged from 177.7 to 218.1 in 2003. The average daily population for the state was 208.0 or 83.5% of the total bed capacity.

The number of juveniles in WVIHY on any given day ranged from 138.9 to 180.8 (Graph 2). The average daily population for WVIHY was 167.4 or 67.2% of their bed

capacity. The number of juveniles in Davis Center on any one day ranged from 31.7 to 50.3. The average daily population for Davis Center is 40.6 or 67.6% of their bed capacity.

## RELEASES

In 2003, 309 juveniles were released from WVIHY and Davis Center. An estimated 330 juveniles were released in 2001 and 330 juveniles were released in 2002.

Over one-half (51.5%) of the releases in 2003 were juveniles committed prior to 2003 while slightly less than one-half (48.5%) were committed in 2003. Release trends were similar for 2001 and 2002.

## Length of Stay

The average or mean length of stay is skewed by a few juveniles with very long stays. The average stay was 198 days in 2001, 190 days in 2002 and 233 days in 2003. The median length of stay for juveniles released in 2003 was 192 days or 6.4 months. This indicates that one half of the juveniles released in 2003 stayed less than 192 days

and one half of the juveniles released stayed more than 192 days. The maximum stay was 1,074 days or approximately 36 (35.8) months.

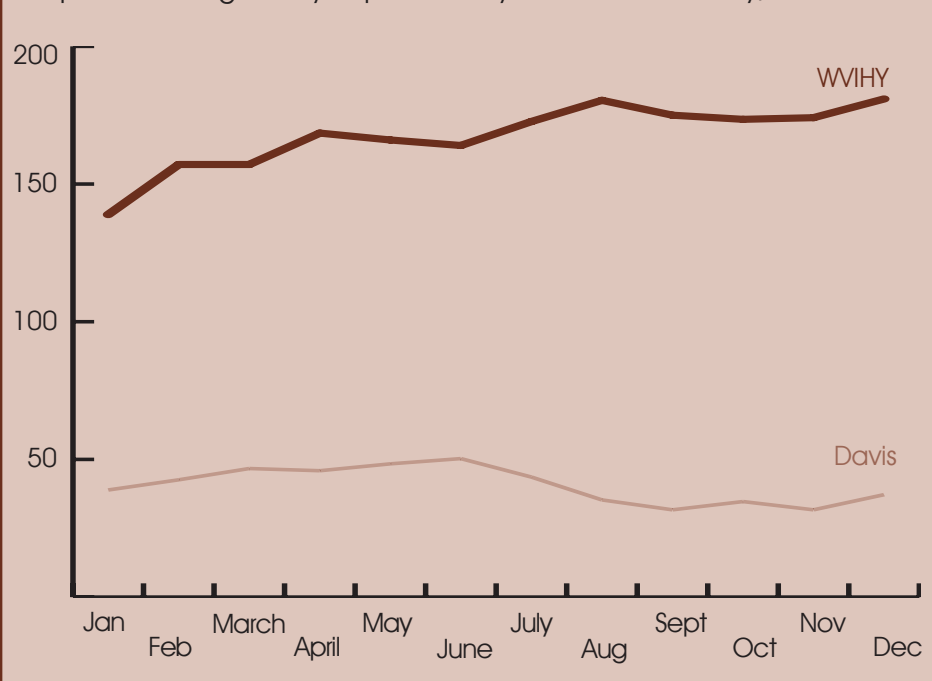
The median length of stay in 2001 was 146 or 4.9 months. The maximum length of stay reported was 927 days or 30.9 months. The median length of stay in 2002 was 102 or 3.4 months. The maximum reported stay in 2002 was 1,071 days or approximately 36 (35.7) months 29.4 months. The mode for each year during the report period was 30 days or one month.

## METHODOLOGY

Data in this report were generated from records in monthly and daily population reports compiled by juvenile correctional facility staff at WVIHY and Davis. The accuracy of the data depends upon the completeness and accuracy of the information available at the time a juvenile is committed or transferred.

**Unit of count.** The unit of count refers to a unique individual except where otherwise noted. The

Graph 2. Average Daily Population by Month and Facility, 2003



---

numbers do not reflect juveniles who were subsequently returned to WVIHY from Davis, a regional jail or who have more than one admission within the same year.

**Population estimates.** U.S. Census 2000 figures were used to estimate the juvenile population in WV. For the purposes of this report, we utilized estimates of the population based on youths 10 to 17 years of age. Commitment rates per 1,000 juveniles were derived from the total number of juveniles committed from each county divided by the population estimated for that county. The result is then multiplied by 1,000 in order to determine the rate per 1,000.

**Offense counts.** Offense counts in this report are generated from the offenses recorded in monthly population reports. Juveniles may have originally been charged with and disposed of other offenses that were not known at intake. Also, because many offenders commit multiple offenses, offense statistics include more than one charge for some juveniles.

**Length of stay.** Length of stay was calculated by obtaining the number of days between the admission date and release date the juveniles. The data reflect only a juvenile's placement at WVIHY and Davis Center not multiple placements in multiple facilities.

**Average daily population.** The average daily population refers to the number of youth present in a given facility or the total correctional population during the reporting period. Average daily population is reported for the state, WVIHY, and Davis facilities.

---

## Data Sources

Data in this report were generated from monthly and daily population reports by each juvenile correctional facility and reported to the Division of Juvenile Services (DJS) central office.

## Funding Source

This report was prepared under Grant 03-JF-FX-0054 from the U.S. Department of Justice, Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention (OJJDP).

## Recommended Citation

Hamilton, Cynthia A. and Stephen M. Haas (2005, June). *WV Juvenile Corrections Report: 2001-2003*. Charleston, WV: Criminal Justice Statistical Analysis Center, Division of Criminal Justice Services, Department of Military Affairs and Public Safety. Available online at [www.wvdcjs.com/statsanalysis](http://www.wvdcjs.com/statsanalysis).

## Acknowledgments

Special thanks to Bruce Carter, Quality Assurance Monitor at the DJS central office, for compiling the monthly and daily population report information and assisting in the interpretation of the data fields. In addition, the authors would like to thank Suzie Guthrie (Corrections Program Specialist at WVIHY) for her assistance in deriving information on juveniles at the WVIHY.

The Statistical Analysis Center would also like to acknowledge the following DCJS juvenile justice staff: Jason Carlson, Justice Programs Specialist; April Dickenson, Justice Programs Specialist; and Matt Arrowood, Juvenile Justice Compliance Monitor.

## DCJS Administration

J. Norbert Federspiel, *Director*  
Michael Cutlip, *Deputy Director - Programs*



1204 Kanawha Boulevard, East  
Charleston, West Virginia 25301  
(304) 588-8814 phone  
(304) 558-0391 fax  
[www.wvdcjs.com](http://www.wvdcjs.com)

The Division of Criminal Justice Services is the designated state criminal justice planning agency. The Division is responsible for fostering public safety in West Virginia by providing planning, system coordination, grant administration, training & technical assistance, monitoring, research, statistical services and law enforcement training.

## Criminal Justice Statistical Analysis Center

The Criminal Justice Statistical Analysis Center's mission is to generate statistical and analytical products concerning crime and the criminal justice system for the public and justice system professionals and policymakers, establishing a basis for sound policy and practical decisions for the criminal justice system in West Virginia.